

The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ www.norotonchurch.org
 2011 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 ■ 203-655-1451



Advent, Christmas and New Year's Services

We had a conversation the other night with our son Sam who lives near Boston. He shared with us that his children, ("the grandkids" as we call them) who are two-and-a-half, are starting to understand the story of the Nativity. Right after Thanksgiving, the crèches and Christmas decorations will come out. The parents were discussing this and when the children learned that all of these preparations are to celebrate Jesus' birthday, young Samuel asked, "Eat cake?" I guess birthdays and cakes **always** go together in this toddler's mind!

The birth of Jesus, the incarnation of our Savior and Lord, brings many more things to mind, doesn't it? The beautiful music of the season, performed so richly at our evening Vespers in the Chapel (December 4) or on Christmas Eve with strings and a full choir, are some of our favorite ways to celebrate. The decorating of the Sanctuary for Advent is another sign that the birth of Jesus is being remembered. Daily Advent reflections, written by our staff and

members on the themes of the four weeks of Advent – Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace will be sent out once again. What a beautiful time of year this is to be a part of a worshipping congregation.

It is also a wonderful time of year to invite friends and family members to church. The secular traditions of the holiday season often seem pale and empty compared to the mystery of God coming down to earth wrapped in human flesh. As more and more people in our society drift away from church attendance, the Christmas season is a wonderful time to invite them to come with us or to return to a faith they once practiced. God was reaching out to us at Christmas so we should be reaching out to our neighbors and friends.

One last word about Christmas and New Years at Noroton. Once every six or seven years, December 25 and January 1 fall on a Sunday. We will have only one service of Worship December 25, at 10:30 am. If you are in town, join us for singing the carols and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. I know many of us will gather at one of our four services

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Worship Schedule:

Chapel - 8:00 a.m.
 Sanctuary - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
 Open Doors - 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

- 12/4/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Hebrews 11:1-2 "Believing is Seeing"
 2nd Sunday of Advent - "Faith" and
Christmas Choral Vespers Services at
 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- 12/11/11 - Pastor Sam Schreiner
 Luke 2:8-15 "Joy Wrapped in
 Swaddling Clothes"
 3rd Sunday of Advent - "Joy"
- 12/18/11 - Pastor Brandi Drake
 John 16:33 "Peace: Take Heart"
 4th Sunday of Advent - "Peace"
- 12/24/11 - Christmas Eve Services
 *3:00 & *5:00 p.m. Services for Families
 8:00 & 10:00 p.m. Traditional Lessons
 and Carols with Choir and Orchestra
 * Childcare available 3 yrs and under.
- 12/25/11 - Christmas Day
 10:30 Service only
 No Childcare or Sunday School

Upcoming Baptism Dates:

1/15/12 and 2/19/12 10:30 a.m.
 Sanctuary service
 To schedule a Baptism please call
 Leslie Ezzo at 203-655-1451, ext. 33.

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Christmas Eve – 3 and 5 pm for families with younger children and 8 and 10 pm for Lessons and Carols with orchestration and our choir. This year you can join us Sunday morning as well.

January 1 we will start the New Year together with communion at just one morning service at 10:30 am and at Open Doors at 5 pm. What a perfect way to begin

our New Year together.

Your Pastor, Partner and Friend,
Sam Schreiner

P.S. Sign up for our daily Advent devotion by sending us your email address to norotonchurch@norotonchurch.org.



NPC SENIOR FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 15 from 12:30-2:00 in Horton Hall!!!! Come, please join us! Share Christmas fellowship, caroling, Pastor Greg Doll's presentation on Christmas memories, Cathy Weiss' delicious luncheon and a special story and Christmas surprise. Plans are already underway for this event.

If you plan to attend, please call either Marlene Moffett (203 655-1451, ext 49) or Rita Hornlein (203 357-1504) by no later than December 12 to reserve your spot.



Church Directory

We are hopeful that the new church directory will arrive at the end of January! Information on how to pick up your copy will appear in Noroton Notes.

Any questions, please contact Julie Colbath,
(203) 655-1451, ext. 14 or
juliecolbath@norotonchurch.org.

Memorial Flowers

Anyone who wishes to give flowers to the glory of God and in honor or memory of a loved one should call Claire Bragdon ext. 40 in the Church Office. The cost is \$50 and the donor may request a date for the flowers.

Also, donations to the Memorial Flower Fund for decorating for the Advent Season and Easter are always welcome. A check payable to NPC may be placed in the Flower Team mailbox in the Mail Room. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Adult Spiritual Formation

Men's Bible Study: Tuesdays 7:30 a.m. in NYC and Fridays 7:15 a.m. in Darien.

Join Pastor Greg in his 5th year of gathering each week on Tuesdays in NYC, from 7:30am-8:30am at 144 East 44th St. Suite 710 (steps from Grand Central) or on Fridays in Darien at NPC in Horton Hall (continental breakfast included) from 7:15am to 8:15 am. We will spend 10-11 weeks paying special attention to the twentieth chapter of Exodus. This chapter contains the Decalogue, better known as the Ten Commandments.

Men's Study at the Sugar Bowl:

Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture.

Weekly Prayer Meeting: Thursdays 1:15-2:15 p.m. in the Parlor.

Come and pray for the needs of our church family. Everyone is welcome – no prayer experience necessary. For more info contact Marlene Moffett at 203-655-1451, ext. 49 or email marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org.

Wanna Stay Connected and Join Our Email List??

We send email blasts to the congregation with general church updates, prayer requests, special events and more. If you're not receiving these email notices and would like to, please contact Claire Bragdon in the church main office, 203-655-1451 ext. 40 or email claire.bragdon@norotonchurch.org to be added to the list.

Cheers



Among many other things, 'tis the season for our annual Advent devotional. We receive a lot of positive feedback each year from those of you who receive the daily devotional via e-mail. As we approach the beginning of a new year, we thought you might appreciate the opportunity to continue receiving daily devotionals (or e-votionals) that provide spiritual sustenance or guide you through the Bible in a year. Here are few good options to consider.

1. *Bible 365*

<http://www.listeningforgod.org/Bible365.html>

Produced by our own Ted Sanborn. His study will take you on an in-depth tour of the Bible in 365 days.

2. *Have a Heart for God*

<http://www.havingaheartforgod.com/>

The website of NPC member Tracy Fox. Tracy provides a daily "get inspired" devotional along with other helpful ministry resources.

3. *Our Daily Bread*

<http://odb.org/>

Our Daily Bread is published and distributed worldwide in more than 40 languages. It is distributed via print, large-print, radio, podcast, email, rss and mobile. For social networking users, find *Our Daily Bread* on Twitter and Facebook.

4. *The Upper Room*

<http://devotional.upperroom.org/>

The mission of the *Upper Room* magazine is to provide a model of practical Christianity, accessible in varied formats, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence.

5. *Quiet Walk*

<http://www.walkthru.org/list-of-magazines/quiet-walk>

Daily devotional of Walk Thru the Bible Ministry.

6. *My Utmost For His Highest*

<http://utmost.org/>

Classic devotional work by Oswald Chambers.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Greg
Pastor of Adult Spiritual Formation

Caring & Women's Ministries



Bruce Cockburn is one of the Drake's favorite singer/songwriters. In the early 90s, he included the song *The cry of a tiny babe* on a CD. The chorus of this song captures me still, and the song itself tells the story of the incarnation so beautifully: I thought I would share it with you this year. *Redemption rips through the surface of time...*

Mary grows a child without the help of a man
Joseph get upset because he doesn't understand
Angel comes to Joseph in a powerful dream
Says "God did this and you're part of his scheme"
Joseph comes to Mary with his hat in his hand
Says "forgive me I thought you'd been with some other man"
She says "what if I had been - but I wasn't anyway and guess what
I felt the baby kick today"

**Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe**

The child is born in the fullness of time
Three wise astrologers take note of the signs
Come to pay their respects to the fragile little king
Get pretty close to wrecking everything
'Cause the governing body of the whole [Holy] land
Is that of Herod, a paranoid man
Who when he hears there's a baby born King of the Jews
Sends death squads to kill all male children under two
But that same bright angel warns the parents in a dream
And they head out for the border and get away clean

**Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe**

There are others who know about this miracle birth
The humblest of people catch a glimpse of their worth
For it isn't to the palace that the Christ child comes
But to shepherds and street people, hookers and bums
And the message is clear if you've got ears to hear
That forgiveness is given for your guilt and your fear
It's a Christmas gift [that] you don't have to buy
There's a future shining in a baby's eyes

**Like a stone on the surface of a still river
Driving the ripples on forever
Redemption rips through the surface of time
In the cry of a tiny babe**

Pastor Brandi Drake,
Pastor of Caring & Women's Ministry

MONDAY Women's Lunchtime Study:

Mondays 12-1:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Gina Blaze from New England Prayer Center is our speaker. Meets through Dec. 19th and resumes Jan. 9th

Women! Tuesday Morning Happenings:

6:15 a.m. in the Parlor. The discussion is always relevant and thoughtful. It's early but the coffee's on! Meets through Dec. 20th and resumes Jan. 10th with a new study.
9:30 a.m. in Horton Hall. We worship in song, hear a talk by one of our leaders, and disperse into small groups for prayer and discussion. Talks are available on our website. Brunch on Dec. 13th then on break until Jan. 10th

Moms of Young Adults Book Group: We meet two Tuesdays each month in NPC's SHAC from 11:30am-1:00pm. We will study Nancy Ortberg's book, *Looking for God: An Unexpected Journey Through Tattoos, Tofu & Pronouns*. A typical meeting includes time for fellowship, book discussion and prayer for our young adult children (and their parents!!). For questions and sign-ups, please call the leaders: Linda Russell (203) 536-6110 or Claudia Roux (203) 253-6795. Next meeting is Dec. 13th and then will break until Jan 10th.

Women's Evening Bible Study: Wednesdays

7-8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Now studying Revelation with a book by Bruce Metzger. Meets through Dec. 14th and resumes Jan. 11th. Contact Nancy McGuire at 203-856-8844.

Moms of Teens Parenting Book Group:

Thursdays, 12:00-1:15 pm (brown bag lunch) in the SHAC at NPC. Discussing the book *Boundaries With Teens* by Dr. John Townsend. \$9 book fee. Questions? Contact Seana Turner at seanagt@aol.com or Lisa Isherwood at lisherwo@optonline.net. For registration and book contact Marlene. Current book discussion ends Dec 22nd. Keep an eye out for new study information.

Moms' Oasis Ministry: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

in Horton Hall. Come and be refreshed with other moms of children from birth to elementary school age. Childcare provided but limited; registration required. Contact Lori at 203-655-1451 x 44. Brunch Dec. 8th then breaks until Jan. 12th.

Caring & Women's Ministries continued...



DivorceCare is a confidential weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. It's a safe place where people can be around others who understand what they're feeling, and hear valuable information about ways to heal from the hurt of divorce.

Our next **DivorceCare** session will begin on Monday, January 23, 2012 and will run for ten weeks through April 2.

Come once, come often, come every week for support and care! The format is set up for participants to join at any time during the ten weeks.

Refreshments are served at 7:15 p.m. The program runs from 7:30- 9:00 p.m.
The fee is \$15 for the participant workbook.

The identities of all participants are kept strictly confidential.

Please pre-register by contacting Lori Nelson at ext. 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org .
You can also register online at www.norotonchurch.org.

NPC Women's Retreat **Fearless: God's Promise to us** January 27-29, Stony Point, NY



Remember to Register for the Women's Retreat!!!

We're excited to have Susie Case with us this year, speaking about the fears we face in life and God's enduring promises of hope, forgiveness and love. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to spend some time with your sisters in Christ away from the pressures of everyday life!

There will be encouraging words from Susie, fellowship with other women of all ages and time for silence and reflection. The weekend will culminate in a Sunday chapel service led by our own Brandi Drake and Evalyn Wakhusama. Please join us! If you are a returning retreat participant, consider whom you might ask to join in -- sometimes, all it takes is a nudge and an encouraging friend to make a difference!

Registration and payment can be done online at www.norotonchurch.org or by picking up a registration form at church and returning it to the Women's Retreat NPC mailbox.

Interested in being part of the planning team or volunteering in some way? We welcome all who want to be involved in this exciting and fun weekend!! Please contact this year's retreat leaders:

Karen Calby (karencalby@yahoo.com) or Eleanor Palmer (edppalmer@yahoo.com).

Questions? Contact Lori Nelson at 203-655-1451 ext 44 or lori.nelson@norotonchurch.org

Children's Ministry



This is the season of joyful anticipation. And joyful we are! Although, in my family, we seem to be in constant battle to keep the focus on Christ during Advent and Christmas. The commercial world relentlessly bombards us with Santa, presents and candy. The focus is on getting rather than giving. It's an exhausting battle to fight with our kids. This year, I'm meeting them on their own turf! I'm planning to take the commercial symbols of 'Christmas' and turn them in to Holy symbols of Christ.

1. We kick off the Advent season on December 2nd with Caroling by Candle Light. (Details and signup on the Children's Ministry page on the NPC website.) This is a wonderful, family friendly event for caroling, hearing an Advent lesson, and fellowship. This year, each family will make an Advent Wreath to use with their Advent devotions at home. Noroton's Devotion book will include a section for children and families.
2. The kids will also learn to change the terminology relating to events in December. This is not the Christmas season; it is the season of Advent. Christmas is, of course, one day. The day Christ was born. Each week in Sunday school, we will learn about our Advent wreaths, and the significance of each candle on the wreath.
3. During the small group portion of Sunday school, part of the lesson will focus on changing the meanings associated with the commercial symbols of 'Christmas'. Take a look at this sneak preview!

a. **The Christmas tree** is an important symbol. It represents the tree that Jesus died on, which is why He was born in the first place! The commercial symbol for a Christmas tree looks like a triangle. This triangle is said to represent each person in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

b. **The ornaments** on the Christmas tree represent first sin. The ornaments symbolize the apples on the Tree of Knowledge. The Bible tells us that God forbade Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge, but Satan tempted Eve to disobey God's command.

c. **The candy cane** is shaped like a shepherd's hook. The red stripes are said to represent the blood of Jesus as He died for our sins. The white stripes remind us that Jesus was pure, and without sin. Still, He died on the cross for our sins.

d. **The star** on top of the Christmas tree reminds us of the star that guided the Magi to the Christ Child long ago. The Bible says that "when they saw the star, they were filled with indescribable joy." (Matthew 2:10)

e. **Christmas lights** remind us "You are the light of the world. A city that can't be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. They will see the good things you do, and they will praise your Father in Heaven." (Matthew 5:14-15)

There are so many other Christian symbols that have been misrepresented by the retail world. There are more examples in *"The ADVENTure of Christmas"* written by Lisa Whelchel. It is a great book to share with your kids. Children's Ministry can also provide a more extensive list.

And finally, the pièce de résistance! We top off our Advent season, on Christmas Eve with a pageant! It's very moving to see our kids reenact the birth of Jesus. They love to dress up, and, for a short time, they get to experience what it might have been like so long ago in that humble stable. Space is limited so be sure to go to the Children's Ministry page on the NPC website for details and the signup.

We're looking forward to seeing you at NPC!



Peace to you this season of Advent,

Linda Yim & Liz Morelli
Children's Ministry
www.norotonchurch.com

The link to the Children's Ministry page is in the upper left corner under NPC Ministries.

Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School



November ended a wonderful month with our food drive for Person to Person. The children delivered the boxes of food to Person to Person in a parade to celebrate all that we are thankful for. The children shared with their families the traditional cranberry relish that they make every year.

We continued the opportunities for giving by collecting hats, mittens, gloves and socks for our Mitten Tree. The items collected decorate our Christmas Tree and will be delivered to Person to Person after the Christmas Chapel. Pastor Stuart visits all the classrooms and shares the story of the Advent. Our Pre-K students visit the Senior Center and sing Christmas songs and share cookies with the Seniors. We will end the year with our annual Christmas Chapel on Friday, December 16th. We cherish this time of teaching the children about the gift of Jesus Christ.

We wish a blessed Christmas season to you and your family.

God Bless you,
Martha Duff and the
NPNS teachers and staff



Rajiv and Callie pick out apples to make cider



Rajiv and Jack paint fall colors in their classroom



Students enjoy Jr. Naturalists with Ms. Emily



Preston's dad helps cut the class pumpkin.



Stella and Emma write in their journals



'Tis the Season

I've always felt that there is something special about Advent and Christmas music. The birth of Christ is a subject that has inspired composers and poets for two thousand years. While we risk over-saturation due to excessive exposure to recorded Christmas music, very few people experience enough LIVE holiday music. The difference is worth the effort of attending a service of live music.

With this in mind, we are offering the following special holiday services-

ADVENT CHORAL VESPERS

DECEMBER 4, 4 and 6 PM in the CHAPEL

The NPC Chamber Singers and Orchestra will present an hour long program of Advent music in our historic Chapel. The immediacy, intimacy, and wonderful acoustics of the chapel combined with music expressing mankind's longing for the Hope of the world, promise a meaningful spiritual experience for all in attendance.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICES
DECEMBER 24, 3 and 5 PM in the SANCTUARY

Come enjoy our children singing carols and participating in a short pageant. These two services are always standing room only, so plan on arriving early!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 24, 8 and 10 PM in the Sanctuary

The NPC Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and soloists will play a large part in our Christmas Eve services celebrating the birth of Jesus. The beautifully decorated Sanctuary and rich acoustics make for a wonderfully warm environment.

Serving the Reason we sing,

Dwayne Condon
Director of Music and Fine Arts

The Worship and Fine Arts Ministry of Noroton Presbyterian Church presents

Christmas Choral Vespers

Featuring

The NPC Chamber Singers

NPC's historic, beautifully decorated & candlelit chapel will reverberate with the music of the season presented by the 24 voice ensemble accompanied by strings and woodwinds.

(There will be childcare provided for ages 3 and under.

Contact Tot Drop 203-655-1451 ext. 46 for childcare reservations.)

**December 4th
4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
in the NPC Chapel**



Noroton Presbyterian Church
TotDrop
Family Friendly Flexible Daycare

The holiday season is a joyous time for all of us. Learning the real meaning of Christmas will be at the heart of Tot Drop in the month ahead. A big favorite for some of the younger children is reenacting the sweet tale of The Little Drummer Boy. (The pictures are from "Christmas past", but remain very compelling!)

All of the Tot Drop staff wishes our extended family the happiest and most meaningful of Christmases and the brightest of New Years. We also remind you that Tot Drop closes at noon on December 23 and reopens Tuesday, January 3, 2012!



Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus



Manger Scene

In His service,
Carol Scott, Director
Director of NPC Tot Drop

Student Ministry



Family Ski Weekend February 10-12 at Okemo, VT

This year we are moving our ski trip back a few weeks and welcoming families, middle school and high school students. Once again we will be skiing at Okemo Mountain and staying at the Combes Family Inn. This will be a great weekend for skiing, time with new and old friends, and a great way to get to know your church family. So here are the details:

- Departure Friday, February 10 at 4:00. We will take the church vans and other vehicles. We will return Sunday evening between 5 and 6.
- We will ski all day Saturday and half of the day on Sunday.
- All NPC adults and children are welcome to join us. Students 6-12 grade are welcome to come with or without their parents along with adults who might not have children.

- The cost does include transportation, lift ticket, accommodations, breakfast Saturday and Sunday along with dinner on Saturday evening. The cost per person is \$325*, \$225 if you do not need a lift ticket.
- You are responsible for your own ski or snowboarding equipment.
- Space is limited. If you sign-up after **January 15** there is a \$25 late fee. Scholarship money is available, you can make requests with pastor Stuart.



To sign-up follow the link on www.norotonchurch.org.



Pastor Stuart
Pastor of Children's & Student Ministries

Student Ministry continued...



Middle School Family Christmas Extravaganza!

Wow, that is a mouthful to say! We are very excited to let you know about our **FIRST EVER** Middle School Family Christmas Extravaganza, a Christmas celebration party for

Middle School students and their families, coming up soon!

Who: Students and families!

When: Friday, Dec. 16th from 7-9pm

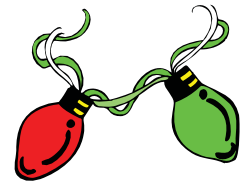
Where: Horton Hall at NPC (2011 Post Rd, Darien)

How much: Free! In true potluck style, we would like each family to bring a dish or two to share.

RSVP: By Dec. 14th please!

We are envisioning a night of being with friends and family, good food, warm cider, games, music, crazy Christmas sweaters, laughter, and looking back on the year in the lives of our Middle Schoolers. We want

to thank you for the trust you have put in this ministry, and provide an opportunity to connect with each other and spend some quality time together as families. We figured a Christmas Extravaganza was the only logical choice!



Please know that all of our Middle School students are invited, even if their families cannot attend the event. We don't want anybody left out! Please RSVP on our website www.npcstudentministries.org by **Dec 14** so that we can know how many to plan for. We are expecting a full and jolly room in Horton Hall, so please sign up soon!

Hope to see you there!

Blessings,
Ben Valentine
Student Ministry Coordinator

The Christmas Progressive Dinner

Food! Just about everyone I know loves food. Nearly all of our celebrations involve it. In fact we design whole events around food. The Christmas Progressive Dinner is no exception! We'll travel from house to house as we progress through the courses of our meal, and end the evening with a gift exchange. We'll start with appetizers, including shrimp, dips, cheese, and other such fare. Next, it's on to the main course! We'll dine together at another house and enjoy some fantastic food. Of course we won't leave out everyone's favorite part of any meal: dessert! We'll travel to the final house

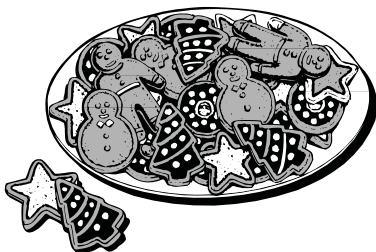
to partake of some sweet treats. Then we'll wrap up by unwrapping gifts at the always hilarious gift exchange.

All you need to bring is your smiling face, a

healthy appetite, and a gift worth about \$10 for the exchange. We'll leave from NPC on **December 18** around **6:30 pm** and the event will end at **9 pm**. Parents may choose to pick students up from the last house or at NPC. Please let us know which one.

Come celebrate with us!

Abby Young
Student Ministry Coordinator



Congregational Life Ministry



Well, we've had our first snow storm, so it shouldn't surprise us that December is here!

December is a month chock-a-block full of activities ... with family, friends, colleagues, neighbors ... and our church is no exception!



Calling All Volunteers ...

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration is here!

When: On Team Night -
Tuesday, December 6th

Time: 6:30 to 7:45pm

Place: Horton Hall

What: Hot and cold appetizers and beverages

PLUS: Christmas caroling, with Dwayne on keyboard



ALL members/friends who volunteered this year ... whether in a big or small way, for one ministry/activity or multiples ... are invited to join the crowd as we celebrate YOU!

You were 462-strong this year, and every ministry is extremely grateful for your assistance in keeping our many programs running.

You should have received a post card invitation in the mail several weeks ago. But if for some reason we missed you ... please let the main office know, and come and join your fellow volunteers!

While we are a large church, we have a relatively small staff, so many volunteers are constantly needed to assure that our programs remain healthy and growing.

***An Alternative time** ... for those who prefer daytime activities:

When: **Wednesday, December 7th**

Time: **11am to Noon**

Where: Horton Hall

What: Brunch type fare will be served



RSVPs appreciated, especially for the daytime event, to assure appropriate seating arrangements.

(valerie.muller@norotonchurch.org or call the Main Office (203) 655-1451)

Here's an exercise tying in with our Candy Cane Theme to share with family and friends ...

(You might consider reading one passage each day of the week.)

The Meaning of the Candy Cane

- **Hard Candy:** (Read Psalm 31:3)
Reminds us Jesus is strong and dependable.
- **Peppermint Flavor:** (Read Matthew 2:11)
Reminds us of the wise men's gift of spices.
- **White Candy:** (Read I John 1:7)
Stands for Jesus as holy sinless Son of God
- **Cane:** (Read John 10:1-8, 27-30)
Like staff used by shepherds caring for sheep. Jesus is our Good Shepherd.
- **The Letter 'J':** (Read Matthew 1:21)
First letter of Name of Jesus, our Savior.
- **The Color Red:** (Read John 3:16 & Revelation 1:5) God loves us, and sent Jesus. Jesus shed His blood for us.
- **The Stripes:** (Read John 19:1-30)
Large stripe reminds us of cross on which Jesus died. Three small stripes remind us of His suffering ... the crown of thorns, the whip stripes on His back, the nail wounds in His hands & feet.

As we approach the Christmas season, may we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, and may we embrace the Advent themes of Hope, Faith, Peace, and Love.

Christmas Blessings to you all,
Valerie Muller
Director of Congregational Life

NPC News

Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

November 20th:

William Ford Schoff, son of Andrew and Heather Schoff

Noah Lee Livingston, presented for baptism by his family, Eulalia Santiago Paiz and Donald Lee Livingston



Many hands make light work. Come on Saturday morning, **December 3rd** at 9:00 AM to help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent. It's fun and will only take a couple of hours. Contact: SandyPeppet@yahoo.com with questions.

Winter New Member Class!

Sat., Jan. 21, noon to 5:30 PM
Childcare available 3 mos. to 5 yrs.
Contact Julie Colbath,
203-655-1451 ext. 14 or
julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

Serve as a Worship Greeter Just 15 Minutes a Month!

Greeters are needed for 15 minutes before the 9 a.m. service on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays, and before the 10:30 a.m. service on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays. Welcome regulars and newcomers to worship with a warm smile and friendly "Good Morning!" Please contact Julie Colbath, 203- 655-1451, ext. 14 or julie.colbath@norotonchurch.org.

If you would like to submit an article for the January 2012 issue please submit it to Rose Cunningham by email at rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org.

NPC Staff here to serve you!

Pastor Samuel A. Schreiner III.....ext. 11 <i>Pastor and Team Leader</i>	Valerie Muller.....ext. 48 <i>Director of Congregational Life</i>	Carol Scott.....ext. 46 <i>NPC Tot Drop Director</i>
Leslie Ezzo.....ext. 33 <i>Session, Weddings & Baptisms</i>	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</i>	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake.....ext. 21 <i>Pastor of Caring and Women's Ministry</i>	Dwayne Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Director of Music & Fine Arts</i>	Martha Duff.....ext. 35 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Lori Nelson.....ext. 44 <i>Assistant</i>	Jenifer Condon.....ext. 45 <i>Music Associate</i>	Barbara Magee.....ext. 37 <i>NPNS Office Manager</i>
Pastor Stuart Smith.....ext. 28 <i>Pastor of Student Ministry</i>	Jen Hanley.....ext. 22 <i>Assistant</i>	Julie Colbath.....ext. 14 <i>Director of Membership</i>
Ben Valentine.....ext. 24 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Ken Miller <i>Sanctuary Organist</i>	Dan Rosa.....ext. 43 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Abby Young.....ext. 25 <i>Student Ministry Coordinator</i>	Bunny Ericsson <i>Chapel Organist</i>	Claire Bragdon.....ext. 40 <i>Assistant & Bookkeeper</i>
Eileen Manhart.....ext. 19 <i>Assistant</i>	Linda Yim.....ext. 34 <i>Interim Director of Children's Ministry</i>	David Lee.....ext. 26 <i>Director of Properties</i>
Pastor Greg Doll.....ext. 23 <i>Adult Spiritual Formation</i>	Liz Morelli.....ext. 15 <i>Assistant</i>	Julio Yika, Tony Dimeglio.....ext. 26 & Brian Wood, Weekday Sextons
Marlene Moffett.....ext. 49 <i>Assistant</i>		Neal Dalziel, Giovanni Morle, & Lenin Vargas.....ext. 26 <i>Night & Weekend Sextons</i>

